



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0249 – Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20250-0249

MAY 2003

**NOTICE TO THE TRADE
GROUND BEEF SUPPLIERS**

This Notice is issued by the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, to announce the new Technical Requirements Schedule (TRS) for Ground Beef Items, Modified May 2003. This document replaces the TRS issued April 30, 2003. The new TRS will be used in the procurement of ground beef products for distribution to participants in the National School Lunch Program and other Federal food and nutrition programs beginning School Year 2003-2004.

Potential suppliers must submit a technical proposal to become eligible to submit offers under Announcement LS-2. The new TRS includes: (1) requirements for irradiated fine ground beef and ground beef patties, (2) microbial testing of boneless beef, and (3) reduction of fat content by 1 to 2 percent on several items. Statistical process controls will be used to measure the contractor's eligibility to meet the new requirements.

The TRS is available on the Internet at: [http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/cp/beef/TRS- GB- 2003 5-29-03.pdf](http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/cp/beef/TRS-GB-2003-5-29-03.pdf)

/s/ Barry L. Carpenter (5/29/03)

Barry L. Carpenter
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